

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1883

Is another column we publish a table showing the assessment of property for taxation for the current year, with a comparative statement showing the difference between this year and 1882. The assessment of last year was made under the old law, that of 1883 under the new law. Although the latter corrects some anomalies of the old law which were said to be very oppressive, the total valuation is larger than last year. As we have heard very little about appeals except upon a few technical points, we are justified in believing that the assessment this year has been a fair one, and that the real value of taxable property has, on the average, been arrived at. The statistics of the assessment therefore are valuable as a guide to the actual wealth of the country and taken as such it must be said that they are very satisfactory. Under the system established by the new law, no complaint about "double taxation" can arise. The figures given, represent actual wealth.

We shall, in a future issue, offer our readers some interesting comparisons between the valuations of to-day and those of former years. Meanwhile, we can only say that the record for 1883 is a very encouraging one. It demonstrates a steady advance in wealth in the community. We may be afraid, or perhaps it might be more truly said, rather nervous about our Treaty with the United States; business men may be suffering somewhat under an adverse rate of exchange with America; foreign owners of Hawaiian property, and foreign money lenders may be draining away from us a large share of the income derived from our soil; trade may be dull and money may be comparatively tight; but notwithstanding all these things, the country is evidently progressing, growing more populous and more wealthy every year. May such a state of things long continue!

THE *Hawaiian Gazette*, a weekly newspaper conducted in this town under the proprietorship of Messrs. Robt. Grieve and A. T. Atkinson, produced in its last issue a burlesque professing to be an abstract of a report on the Armed Constabulary sent by Captain Hayley to the Attorney-General *ad interim*. Certain portions of the article in the *Gazette* were so manifestly copied from the report which was stolen the other day from the table of the clerk to the Attorney-General, that there can be no doubt that the person who prepared the abstract of the report for the *Gazette* is either a thief or a willful receiver of stolen goods. Journalism has come to a poor pass among the opponents of the Government when such men as the proprietors of the *Gazette* who have hitherto held a fair name in this community find themselves reduced to such straits for a sensation that they will tolerate conduct like this among their employees; and are ready to publish matter which they cannot but know to be surreptitiously and therefore dishonestly obtained. Perhaps we are wrong to bring in the name of Mr. Grieve into this accusation but his partner who is also the editor of the *Gazette* cannot be exonerated.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

No. V.

We published on Saturday last a portion of a letter addressed to an American newspaper by a literary man who is making a hurried tour of the world and had hoped to "do" the Hawaiian Islands during the brief stay of the mail steamer in our port. He arrived on a Sunday and as his notebook was in consequence very barely filled he has indulged in some extremely sharp invective against Sabbatarianism as developed from New England seed in the climate of these Islands. What Mr. Conway has said in print, severe as it is, and exaggerated as, in some parts, it also is, does but formulate in forcible language what nineteenth-century visitors to these Islands have to say. Whether like him they come on a dying visit or come to make a tour of the Islands, or come to stay, they have but one opinion about our Sabbath laws. We have said nine-tenths, but that is an understatement. Not one in ten, nor one in a hundred fails to grumble and criticize our Sabbath law, and our pretended Sabbath-keeping in scornful terms. Their first and strongest, and quite unassailable point against us is that our law is enforced against the weak and unsuspecting, and deliberately, openly, and wickedly broken by the influential who in this place are exactly the men whose professed religious sentiments and whose personal influence in the community made and now keep up the law as against their weaker fellow citizens. Their next point is that the law is inhuman because it prohibits the sale of food in any form (except as it would appear, in the mischievous form of ice cream) after the hour of 7 P. M. Our well-to-do folks, who break the law whenever and in whatever manner it pleases them, have their own establishments and can feed when and how it suits them. If they had gone to bed superfluous as many a man and woman has had to do on account of this absolutely iniquitous law they would feel differently about it. The writer of this article has seen a lady land from one of the mail steamers on a Sunday night, worn out with a fortnight's sickness, elated with the hope of getting a cup of tea on shore, cruelly disappointed by this scandalous enactment. This is but one instance out of many known personally to the writer, of the tyrannous nature of this law, which is a disgrace to a community which has allowed it to be maintained.

We are not going to enter into the Sabbatarian controversy. Such discussions are not in their proper place in the editorial columns of a secular newspaper. The idolatrous regard for Sabbath our Divine Redeemer's antagonism to which, as developed among the Jewish Pharisees is one of the most prominent features of the Gospel history of his life—will perish in time like every other man-invented "improvement" upon the Christian religion as it was "delivered to the Saints." What we have to do with is the scandal of having a law on our statute books which is not kept, which is enforced spasmodically against the poor and helpless, and is openly broken by the chief men of the community, which is a law the rich may break and the poor must keep—which, in fact, the authorities dare not enforce in its integrity. The best made point in Mr. Conway's diatribe is that in which he refers

to the fact that the steamer he came in was discharged of her Honolulu cargo by Hawaiian laboring men, who are forbidden to labor on Sunday, whilst he himself had to suffer the rigors of the law and could neither get nor see what he desired. Why should this law be broken with impunity by the best educated, the most church-going, most influential men in the community, whilst men are punished for breaking other laws? Such a state of things is most demoralizing. Either let us have the law kept by all or repealed. Consistency demands that one or other of these things should be done. Common sense demands that the choice should be repealed. Our business men are not ready to give up the mails sorted and reading their business letters on Sunday. No one is ready to give up his custom of obtaining his newspapers and periodicals from Mr. Robertson or Mr. Thrum or Mr. Oat on Sunday. No one is ready to give up the hiring of express or horses or buggies on Sunday. No one is ready to say that the mail steamers shall not be discharged on Sunday. Why then, in the name of common sense, why in the name of individual probity of conduct, should a law be kept on the Statute Book which renders every one of us liable to penalties for doing these things?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The London correspondent of the *Auckland Weekly News* expatiates at some length on the "Pacific Annexation Question." After setting forth the action of the British and French Governments, he quotes from the *Berlin Post*, a paper which gives vent to its feelings in a half angry and half jeering manner in the following words: "The annexation of Hawaii is a justifiable and justifiable measure. Of the numerous and manifold acts with which the European Powers in this century of rapine and violence have exercised rapacious sovereignty either at home or in the tropics, this acquisition of territory is certainly one of the most harmless. Not a single treaty is broken by it either in spirit or letter. Hence this formal taking possession is far more straightforward and rightful than the annexation of North Borneo under the guise of a charter to a trading company. Not a single interest is injured by it save perhaps that of the savage inhabitants. The claims or rights of other civilized nations—the uncivilized not being taken into account—are not at all curtailed thereby. In short, the affair is fully in order, and there is no reason for us to raise an alarm. John Bull puts another piece of land into his rosy pockets and we have nothing more to do than to compliment him sincerely on this fresh proof of his enterprise, his practical foresight, and his insatiable hunger for land."

The *Anglican Church Chronicle* entered on its second volume on Saturday last. The enterprising editors purpose "to continue in the same course they have hitherto pursued with perhaps one difference which they will make known to their readers in the near future if their plans can be matured." The first installment of a very important question forms the subject of the leading article, "Has Christianity anything to do with Popular Amusements?" To which the writer answers:—Yes, a great deal. The usual amount of valuable information concerning "The Church" is furnished in detail, while the literary and miscellaneous selections make the whole number a valuable acquisition to one's library.

The fourth number of the new monthly magazine entitled *Die Lewis's Monthly* came to hand by the last mail. It is edited by Die Lewis and published by Frank Seaman, New York. It contains 127 pages of very interesting reading matter, comprising articles by Lucy M. Hall, Edouard Barbot, Sarah K. Bolton, Fanchon, Rev. Dr. Justin D. Fulton, Helen M. Loder, S. D. Lee, Lillie Devereux Blake, Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Hopkins, Dora Darnore, J. W. Gally, Aunt Bonnybell, Julia Colman, and several valuable writings of the accomplished editor, amongst which is some valuable information under the head of "Hygienic Department." Under this heading we quote the following: "The Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli in a speech at Manchester, April 31, 1872, said: 'After all the first consideration of a Minister should be the health of the people. A land may be covered with historic trophies, with museums of science and galleries of art, with universities and libraries, the people may be civilized and ingenious, the country may be even famous in the annals and the action of the world; but if the population every ten years decreases, and the stature, this race every ten years diminishes, the history of that country will soon be the history of the past.'"

Mrs. Bishop, better known on these Islands as Miss Bird, draws a comparison between the Japanese and Chinese which is by no means complimentary to the latter. She says: "After the courteous, kindly Japanese, the Chinese seem indifferent, rough and disagreeable, except the well-to-do merchants in the shops, who are bland, complacent, and courteous. Their rude stare and the way they hustle you in the streets and shout their 'pidgin' English at you is not attractive. Then they have an ugly habit of speaking of us as barbarians or foreign devils."

Judging from the latest news from Europe, it is reasonable to infer that the British Government will ultimately assent to the wishes of the Australian Colonies with regard to the annexation of New Guinea to Queensland. Captain Armit, in his correspondence to the *Melbourne Argus*, has intensified the desire of colonists to see New Guinea under the British flag. He speaks of the country as "a land flowing with milk and honey," and the inhabitants of the interior as being of a widely different temperament from the savages on the coast. He describes them as "orderly, well-disposed, and comparatively civilized race, and the country only wants capital and energy to make it yield its riches to the commerce of the world."

The American bark C. Sotherland Hulburt arrived in this port on the 20th September in a disabled condition, having lost her main and mizen masts, and fore-top gallant mast eighteen days after leaving Portland, Oregon. Captain Davis run for Honolulu with a jury rig, the nature of which was so efficient as to elicit the admiration of naval and mercantile men then in port. After advertising for tenders for repairs, the job was placed in the hands of Mr. Thos. Sorenson who has completed the journey to New York. The heavy spars were imported from the Coast, and the lighter ones supplied here.

The Bethel Jubilee.

Last Sunday morning there was a special service at the Bethel Church in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of that edifice as a place for Christian worship on 28th November, 1833. The church had been prettily decorated with flowers and palm and fern fronds, etc.—we did not enquire by whom but the tasteful hands of ladies must have the credit. The church was full, many besides the usual members of the congregation were there in honor of the occasion, and with sympathy with the amiable and venerable pastor, Rev. Dr. S. C. Damon. Amongst these we may note His Majesty the King, attended by Major Parvis, H. R. H. Princes Liliuokalani, His Ex. Governor Dominis, Hon. A. S. Cleghorn, His Ex. Walter M. Gibson, His Ex. Rollin M. Daggett and Mrs. Daggett, Hon. Paul Neumann. The programme of the service as announced in our issue of Saturday was adhered to except that Rev. Dwight Baldwin was unable to be present as one of the assisting ministers.

The Rev. Damon delivered an exceedingly interesting historical discourse tracing the work of the Seamen's Mission from its inception, describing the building of the Church and the Seamen's Home the pastorate of his predecessor, Rev. Mr. Deal and his own long connection with the work. Forty-one years ago Dr. Damon with his faithful helpmeet arrived here. The Reverend gentleman dwelt on the changes which that long period of time had brought about. When he came here California was accustomed to receive news from the outside world by way of the Sandwich Islands which were then selves cut off by 18,000 miles of sea voyage from New York. The Bethel was not only the first church erected for worship in the English tongue in these Islands, but the first in the whole Pacific. Of the many native churches that existed in the Islands when the Bethel was built, not one now remains—it had outlived them all. When built it was surrounded on all sides by drinking saloons. In one year as many as 10,000 sailors had visited that port, whilst in the same year there were 5,000 at Lahaina and 5,000 at Hilo. Among the injunctions given to him by the Society that sent him here the chief was that he should devote himself to the good of his fellow-men and avoid taking any share in the partizan politics of men. This injunction he had steadfastly kept before him during his long career as the pastor of the Bethel.

We are glad to know that this jubilee discourse is to be published in a form which can be preserved as a memorial of the past. It was full of points of historical interest, narrated in a way which shows the deep sympathy which the reverend orator has always had with every movement of value to his fellow-men. His thoughtful phrases excited an evident sympathy for the preacher in the hearts of those present—a sympathy made manifest by the deep attention with which it was followed throughout. We can but better close our notice of this event than by the following hymn from the lyrics of Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, which was sung during the service:

"Great God, a hymn of jubilee
With joyful hearts we raise to Thee;
Thy goodness through these circling years,
To us this day appears—
We thank Thee that this house of prayer
Has been long years Thy home of care;
That praise and service offered here
Have ever found Thy listening ear.
—Within these walls what bitter grief
Has oftentimes found a sweet relief;
What lessons learned of patience, trust
And hope revived ere hearts were crushed.
—The little child, the hearty head,
With youth and manhood's dreamy tread,
Have here received such sacred rites
As life or death for each invites.
—To God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Be praise and highest honors won
Within this sacred house, till we
In heaven take up the jubilee."

THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

Question of a Subsidy from the U. S. Government.
The mail contract between the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and the New Zealand and New South Wales Colonies has recently been renewed. The contract was continued from the expiration of the present agreement, in next November, and to extend for a period not to exceed two years. The steamship company is to receive a subsidy not to exceed £50,000 annually, of which the portion to fall on the colonies shall not exceed £18,750, for the carrying of mail matter between San Francisco and the Australian Colonies. In the contract is the proviso that unless a contribution in aid of the line is received from the United States or some other source, the renewed service shall only continue for twelve months. It is desired that the United States Government shall contribute at least one-third of the annual subsidy of the extended contract.

It is well known that Congress is opposed to the granting of subsidies to steamship companies. One of the last subsidies given was the one to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to China, and this company carried the mails for \$500,000 a year. This was afterwards increased to \$1,000,000 a year, but this latter was disallowed and the company only given postal union rates of so much a pound.

Every month from 25,000 to 30,000 letters are shipped from the San Francisco Post-office to Australia, not including several thousands more sent to the various South Sea Islands, where many of our business men have large mercantile interests. By the present mail line letters go direct to Australia and all the South Sea Islands, and should this line be withdrawn all correspondence would have to make the circumference of the globe.

It is generally understood that the post-office officials, both here and at Washington, are in favor of granting some contribution or aid, that the present line of communication may not be broken.—S. F. Chronicle.

A Marvel in Marksmanship.

There is in town at the present time a party who has an interesting and eventful history. This person is Charles Wallace who was born in Cheltenham, Mo., in 1843, and from his boyhood until the breaking out of the Rebellion was engaged in hunting and trapping. When the call came for soldiers he responded, enlisting in the Fourth Missouri regiment, and served all through the Rebellion. He was in Andersonville, Libby, Belle Isle and Florence prisons. At the first named he was sentenced to be shot July 17, 1863. The night preceding the day on which he was to meet his death, he, with seven others, managed to escape. They managed in the darkness to get close to the guard, when a companion named Bob Allison, from Connecticut, threw a preparation of fine dry tobacco and pepper into the guard's face. At the conclusion of his war experience Wallace went on the plains as a scout, carrying with him in his body nine bullets, seven of which can be distinctly felt. During a fight with a party of Apache Indians he had a personal encounter with one of the chiefs of the tribe named Oseoceno. The fight was hand to hand and meant death to one or both. Wallace received a dagger thrust through the palm of his left hand and was also held by the throat. He then drew his revolver with his right hand, and, twisting his free

arm across his back, shot the chief dead. The knife with which he was stabbed was combined with a revolver, having in one weapon a scalping-knife, dagger and shooting iron. In the handle was a chamber for poison, with which to make the work of the instrument still more dangerous. As mementoes of this fight the scout carries with him the miniature arsenal described and the scalp of Oseoceno.

The wonderful marksmanship of Charles Wallace is the talk of the town, and in his exploits in this direction he is ably seconded by his wife. Mrs. Wallace will at a distance of 125 feet hold a ten-cent piece between her lips, and her husband will knock it out of her mouth every time without harm. This is regarded as the most difficult shot ever made, and it has been done several times since their advent in town. A common tack is placed on a white surface, point toward him, and Mr. Wallace will drive a bullet on the tack point nine times out of ten. He will stand 100 yards away, hold a ten-cent piece between his fingers, which his wife will shoot out with a revolver.—Marlboro Cor. Boston Globe.

AN UNKNOWN WRECK.

A Vessel Bottom Upwards in Mid-Ocean.

The American ship William H. Smith, which arrived at San Francisco several days ago, brings the tidings of the loss of an unknown ship which she encountered during her passage from New York. The Smith left New York on June 21st last, laden with miscellaneous merchandise for San Francisco; crossed the equator in the Atlantic, August 24, forty-three days out, after sailing a distance of 4,363 miles. A few days further sailing brought her in contact with a great many kerosene barrels. The Captain J. F. Bartlett, launched a small boat and secured one of the packages, in order, if possible to obtain a clue as to what ship they formerly belonged. The barrel was found to contain kerosene oil, but no marks of any description were visible, and had, by appearances, been painted blue, but the salt water had almost washed the appearance of color entirely off.

The vessel had proceeded but a short distance on her course when she came within a stone's throw of a vessel bottom upwards, apparently of about 800 tons. The Smith passed very close to the unfortunate ship, but no wreckage was apparent. She was no doubt heavily loaded as she was very deep in the water. Her hull appeared to be in perfect condition and the copper on her bottom in excellent order. At the time the wrecked vessel was in a dangerous position for vessels bound southward.

The Captain states it was impossible to perceive the name of the vessel or her nationality and that he thinks the kerosene barrels in question were thrown from her cargo, and no doubt she capsized in a severe gale off the Horn. As there were several vessels of a similar dimension overdue at New York, no doubt she was destined for that city, from some foreign port.—S. F. Chronicle.

The Sugar Duties.

So strong is the opposition to total and immediate repeal of the taxes on whisky and tobacco that the protectionists, in looking around for some object upon which taxes can be repealed without causing much interference with their system, have hit upon sugar, which produces more revenue than any other article in the whole tariff list. It is conceded on all hands that the next Congress must make a substantial reduction of the enormous treasury surplus, and total repeal on the duties on sugar would serve even better than removal of the internal taxes to prevent any true reform on the tariff. This proposition in regard to the sugar duties affords the clearest possible illustration of the real character of the issue between the opposing politics of protection and tariff for revenue.

In 1882 the total revenue from duties on sugar and molasses was \$4,210,573, upon imports valued at \$94,540,269, making an average ad valorem rate of 52 per cent. The total home production for 1880 was estimated at \$12,216,785. Upon an estimated increase of 40 per cent, the incidental tax upon the above amount was \$4,846,714. This is what the people paid for the enhanced cost of the home production of sugar by reason of the tariff. It is thus seen that the duties on sugar are almost wholly for revenue. In spite of a productive duty of more than 50 per cent, the home product of sugar did not constitute more than one-eighth of the entire consumption. The reduction of about 20 per cent, in the last tariff act below former rates brings the sugar duties still nearer to the revenue basis. Upon this important article of consumption it is probable that the maximum amount of revenue has been reached, and for this reason the sugar duties have become obnoxious to the protectionists. Such protection as is afforded to the Louisiana planters and other home producers of sugar by a strict revenue standard of duty is mere incidental, but it is quite enough.

Compare the revenue duties on sugar and their result with the protective duties on wool and woollens. In 1882 the duties under this schedule were \$29,254,254 upon imports valued at \$47,679,502, showing an average ad valorem rate of more than 61 per cent. The value of the home product of wool and woollens in 1880 was \$266,182,914. At the moderate rate of 40 per cent increase upon this value the incidental taxation of consumers was \$106,873,165. This is the enhanced cost to the people upon home wool and its products by reason of the heavy duties, which produce a comparatively small revenue. For every dollar paid into the Treasury for wools and woollens as revenue for the support of government three dollars and a half besides are fished from the consumer in the name of protection. How much of this enormous taxation of consumers goes to labor is shown by the fact that the average annual wages of a hand in the woolen manufacture was \$326 in 1880, and there has been no increase in the rate of wages since then. The worst feature of this is that the heaviest duties are on the blankets, flannels and coarse woolen clothing of the poor. A slight change was made in the wool duties in the last tariff, but they were not sufficient to affect this argument. The duties on wool and woolen still remain highly protective, and inflict a grievous burden of incidental taxation upon the people of the country.

The desire for the repeal of the sugar duties on the part of the protectionists is thus easily accounted for. These duties are for revenue, the incidental taxation of the people resulting being exceedingly small. Upon earthenware and glass, iron, steel and nails, cotton and woolen goods, silk, hemp, flax goods, books and paper, salt and coal, and other protected articles, the reve-

nue is incidental and the tax upon consumers is the main object. If the fifty million dollars of annual revenue from sugar were abated in the next Congress all pretensions in favor of tariff reform might as well be abandoned. Such an act would be as great a departure from sound principles of revenue as was the repeal of the duties on tea and coffee ten years ago with the cry of a "free breakfast table."—Philadelphia Record.

Blowing Hot and Cold.

The Chronicle is not only malicious but inconsistent in its persistent fury against everybody and everything connected with the Hawaiian Islands, or with sugar. On Thursday week it had a sensational article founded on the affairs of an American company that had not succeeded in producing on its Hawaiian plantations as much sugar as was expected. This week it is berating the treaty on the ground that it will lead to the production of too much sugar. The Chronicle reminds us of a malicious drunkard individual, who, going home late one night, swore to himself that if his wife was waiting for him, he would beat her for wasting fire and candle, and if she was in bed, he would kick her for neglecting his comfort. Nothing that his wife could do would please that fellow any more than anything done in the Islands will please the Chronicle. The Chronicle is mad because the Islands having about reached their full capacity only produce 60,000 tons, while the Chronicle has said again and again they would produce 150,000 tons; and within a week it again attempts to terrorize the United States with predictions of the enormous amount of sugar they are going to produce. If the Islands could produce 150,000 tons, it would not be the equivalent of what Louisiana produces or one-fifth what we import from Cuba. But the fact is, that it is only in spots favored by easy access to water for irrigation, that sugar can be profitably grown except by an enormous expenditure for storage reservoirs, pipes and ditches. The first attempt on a large scale to utilize a dry plain for sugar growing, according to the Chronicle, has not realized the expectations of the investors. If the Chronicle is an authority it never will. But the Chronicle of a Thursday and the Chronicle of a Monday are equally unreliable. Its statements regarding the affairs of corporations are as deeply dyed in malice as those relating to the future of the whole country. Their flat contradictions of each other, however, renders them harmless.—S. F. Merchant.

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